REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are presently pending in this application, of which Claims 1-14, 22, and 30 have been withdrawn from consideration.

Information Disclosure Statement

An Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) is being filed concurrently herewith. Entry of the IDS is respectfully requested.

Restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121

The Examiner restricted the claims of the present invention between the claims of Group I (Claims 1-14, 22, and 30, drawn to a structure with first and second cured portions) and the claims of Group II (Claims 15-21 and 23-29, drawn to a method for forming a pattern in a curable material and a pattern transfer structure).

Mr. Conway provisionally elected, with traverse, the claims of Group II, *i.e.*, Claims 15-21 and 23-29. The Applicant now affirms this election without traverse.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

The Examiner rejected Claims 28 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, "as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention." The Examiner notes that "Claims 28 and 29, in calling for 'the structure of claim 27', are improperly dependent on claim 27 which recites a method. Also, the language 'said first cured portion' and 'said second cured portion' lacks antecedent basis in claim 27."

Claims 28 and 29 have each been amended to depend directly from Claim 23, which provides antecedent basis for "said first cured portion" and "said second cured portion". It is believed that these claims comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner rejected Claims 15-19 and 23-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Bawa *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 4,732,715).

Independent Claim 15 has been amended to emphasize that it is directed to a method for continuously forming a pattern in a radiation curable material as the material passes a radiation source. For example, an embodiment of a method for continuously forming a pattern in a radiation curable material is described on page 8, line 25 through page 10, line 2 of the originally filed application with reference to Figure 6. In this embodiment, a base film 104 is wrapped about a mold 102 ruled with linear grooves 120. Prism monomer material 116 is fed between the mold 102 and the base film 104 to form optical structures, for example, linear prisms, thereon. A mask film 108 is also fed around the drum 102 on the side of the base film 104 opposite that upon which the linear prisms are formed. Ultraviolet lamps 122, 124 cure the material 116 through the mask layer 108 to form differentially cured collimating film 126. In this manner, a method is provided for continuously forming a pattern in a radiation curable material, for example, material 116.

In contrast, Bawa *et al.* disclose a method for forming contact lenses in which a polymerizable monomer composition 21 is placed in a concave surface of a plastic mold 20. A mask 22 is provided on top of the mold having a printed pattern, for example, radial lines 23. The mold is then rotated at a selected velocity about a vertical axis passing through the center of the concave surface, which causes the monomer composition to spread centrifugally to form a lens-shaped layer on the concave surface of the mold. Collimated actinic irradiation is then used to cure the monomer composition 21. The monomer below the lines 23 of mask 22 polymerizes more slowly than the rapidly polymerizing monomer in the intensely irradiated regions under the clear areas of the mask 22, which forms troughs 35 in the contact lens.

It is respectfully submitted that Bawa *et al.* do not teach or suggest the limitation of continuously forming a pattern in a radiation curable material. Accordingly, the rejection with respect to Claims 15-19 is believed to be overcome.

Claim 23 has been amended to emphasize that the radiation curable material is connected to a base that is disposed between the radiation curable material and the pattern. As illustrated in the embodiment of Figure 3, for example, the differentially cured pattern is formed through the base. By forming a differentially cured pattern in this manner, a more subtle, *i.e.*, less visible, pattern can be formed in a radiation curable layer.

It is respectfully submitted that Bawa *et al.* do not teach or suggest this limitation, and thus Claims 23-26 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected Claims 20, 21, and 27-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nilsen *et al.* in view of Bawa *et al.* It is believed that "Nilsen *et al.*" is referring to U.S. Patent No. 5,780,140, which issued to Robert B. Nilsen on July 14, 1998. The Examiner notes that "Nilsen discloses applying UV radiation curable material to a rotating prism mold (see Figs. 3A-3C) and laminating same to a base film (63) during the UV curing of the material." The Examiner looks to Bawa *et al.* to disclose a blocking pattern between the UV source and the curable material. The Examiner further states that "[i]t would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to have modified the process of Nilsen as taught by Bawa et al dependent on the exact nature of the retroreflective sheeting desired."

This rejection is respectfully traversed in that Nilsen does not teach or suggest the concept of forming differentially cured patterns in a layer. There is no motivation to look to a method for forming contact lenses as disclosed in Bawa *et al.*, which is clearly a non-continuous process, to form differentially cured patterns in a continuous process.

Accordingly, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the

Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: August 22, 2003